

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 008626
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:KBROWN
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:ABOHLN
S/S-O:DS

-----130652 122030Z /47

R 121836Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 9033

S E C R E T STATE 008626

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 310046 ACTION ABU DHABI BEIRUT
BONN BRUSSELS DOHA KUWAIT LONDON MANAMA MUSCAT PARIS RABAT
SANA TOKYO TUNIS USNATO ROME INFO ALGIERS AMMAN BAGHDAD CAIRO
DAMASCUS JIDDA TEHRAN TEL AVIV TRIPOLI DEC 30.

QUOTE F E C R E T STATE 310046

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON USG POSITION ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI
TALKS

1. FOLLOWING ARE POINTS YOU MAY USE WITH HOST GOVERNMENT
CONCERNING THE SADAT-BEGIN MEETING IN ISMAILIA AND THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING THAT IS TO BE CONVENED IN
JERUSALEM IN MID-JANUARY. PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDANCE IS
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TO GIVE CONCERNED FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS A SENSE OF OUR
THINKING ON THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS AND,
PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF ARAB STATES, TO ENCOURAGE
SUPPORT FOR SADAT AND DISCOURAGE STATEMENTS OR STEPS THAT
WOULD UNDERCUT HIM. WE DO NOT PLAN TO BRIEF THIRD PARTIES
IN DETAIL ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISMAILIA MEETING SINCE
WHAT WE KNOW OF IT WAS GIVEN US IN CONFIDENCE BY THE

PARTICIPANTS AND IN ANY EVENT OTHERS CONCERNED WILL PRE-SUMABLY BE BRIEFED DIRECTLY BY THE EGYPTIANS AND/OR THE ISRAELIS (SADAT HAS TOLD US THAT HE IS SENDING MESSAGES TO FRIENDLY ARAB STATES.)

A. WE BELIEVE PROGRESS WAS MADE AT ISMAILIA. BOTH SIDES MADE CLEAR THEIR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AND AGREED ON THE FORMATION OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL COMMITTEES, MEETING AT JERUSALEM AND AT CAIRO, TO WORK OUT THE PRINCIPLES OF SUCH A SETTLEMENT. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE MEETING WAS GOOD AND THAT A BASIS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS WAS ESTABLISHED. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT ALL ISSUES IN A DISPUTE AS LONG-STANDING AND AS INVOLVED AS THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT COULD BE RESOLVED AT ONE SITTING.

B. WE BELIEVE THE PARTIES ARE MAKING A SERIOUS EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT. CONCRETE DETAILS WILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. SOME VERY HARD ISSUES WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH AND NEGOTIATIONS MAY AT TIMES BE DIFFICULT, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT A BASIC COURSE TOWARD PEACE HAS BEEN CHARTED.

C. THE MAIN PROBLEM THAT WILL HAVE TO BE RESOLVED IN THE PERIOD AHEAD IS THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZE THAT FURTHER PROGRESS WILL HAVE TO BE
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MADE ON THIS ISSUE AND BOTH SEEM DETERMINED TO WORK FOR A SOLUTION. IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT WE HAVE NOT ENDORSED THE BEGIN WEST BANK/GAZA PROPOSAL BUT RATHER HAVE SAID IT IS AN APPROPRIATE STARTING POINT FOR NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE PARTIES. FYI - THE BEGIN PROPOSAL AS GIVEN TO EGYPTIANS WAS MORE ONE SIDED THAN THAT SHOWN TO US IN WASHINGTON.

D. WE EXPECT THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE TO BE A CENTRAL SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM. THE CAIRO MEETINGS WILL BE BETWEEN DEFENSE MINISTERS AND, WE EXPECT, WILL COVER MILITARY AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

E. THE PARTIES HAVE INVITED THE UNITED STATES TO ATTEND THE JERUSALEM FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS AND WE HAVE AGREED TO DO SO. WE WILL, AT JERUSALEM AND IN OUR OTHER CONTACTS WITH THE PARTIES, CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT AND TO GIVE THE PARTIES OUR FULL COOPERATION AND SUPPORT IN THEIR EFFORTS.

2. IF ASKED WHETHER THE SECRETARY WILL ATTEND THE

OPENING OF THE JERUSALEM MEETING, YOU MAY SAY THAT THIS IS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND THAT A DECISION WILL BE MADE SHORTLY. IF ASKED ABOUT USG ATTENDANCE AT THE CAIRO

MEETING, YOU SHOULD SAY WE DO NOT PLAN TO PARTICIPATE AT THIS STAGE BUT EXPECT THE PARTIES WILL KEEP US INFORMED OF THE GENERAL COURSE OF THE TALKS. WE ARE PREPARED TO DO SO IF ASKED.

3. FOR DAMASCUS: YOU MAY AT YOUR DISCRETION DRAW ON FOREGOING TO BRIEF OR TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM SARG.

4. FOR AMMAN, JIDDA AND TEHRAN: IF YOU THINK USEFUL YOU MAY USE FOREGOING TO GIVE HOST GOVERNMENT THE SECRET

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GENERAL FLAVOR OF OUR THINKING. PRESIDENT WILL OF COURSE COVER THIS SUBJECT MORE IN DETAIL IN HIS TALKS WITH THE SHAH, KING HUSSEIN AND KING KHALID.

5. FOR TRIPOLI, BAGHDAD AND ALGIERS: AT YOUR DISCRETION YOU MAY DRAW ON ABOVE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. CHRISTOPHER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE008626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KBROWN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780018-1118
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780169/aaaacgbr.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ba36fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3782584
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUIDANCE ON USG POSITION ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS
TAGS: PGOV, IS, EG, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba36fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014